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dence to show that the formation of grooves and associated caldron-like pits in coarse-grained crystalline rocks of tropical countries can be accounted for by the action of rain. Decomposing organic matter, which collects in the deeper pits, doubtless hastens the process. There is no evidence of glacial action.

"The Estancia Beds of Bahia, Sergipe and Alagoas, Brazil" (*Amer. Journ. of Sci.*, Vol. 35), by the same author, are shown to "cover large areas in the states of Bahia, Sergipe and the southern corner of Alagoas," and to consist of sedimentary beds of marine and freshwater deposits. At certain points the series rests unconformably upon beds of probable Carboniferous age or against the Caboclo shales, presumably Devonian. A fossil fern (*Alethopteris branneri*) from the Estancia series and described by David White (same journal) indicates that the beds are Permian, though the evidence is not wholly conclusive.

The monotonous, low-lying sandy coast, characteristic of nearly the entire northeast coast of Brazil, and typified by the region about Natal, is described by Olaf P. Jenkins in a paper entitled "Geology of the Region about Natal, Rio Grande do Norte, Brazil" (*Proc. Amer. Philos. Soc.*, Vol. 52). In this locality limestones (late Cretaceous or early Tertiary) rest upon probable Archæan crystalline rocks, and in turn are partially covered by unconformable sandstones and clays over which the trade winds pile sand dunes of great extent. Recent coastal subsidence has resulted in the formation of several good harbors, while the dunes, clogging the river mouths, have developed extensive lakes and fertile valleys.

Fishes collected from these lakes, and from tidepools and city markets, form the basis of a paper, "The Fishes of the Stanford Expedition to Brazil" by E. C. Starks (Stanford University Publications, 1913). Two hundred and thirty species are listed, of which 15 are new to science. Of the 13 entomological papers 11 appear in the 19th and 20th volumes of *Psyche*. These are concerned with ants, bees, various families of beetles, and a few neuropterid species. "Brazilian *Ichneumonidae* and *Brachonidae*, obtained by the Stanford Expedition" (*Ann. Entom. Soc. of Amer.*, Vol. 5), by C. T. Brues, contains the descriptions of thirty-two new species. "New Species of Lamellicorn Beetles" (*Ann. and Mag. of Nat. Hist.*, Ser. 8, Vol. 9), by G. J. Arrow, records eighteen new species. "Land and Fresh-water Mollusks of the Stanford Expedition to Brazil" (*Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Phila.*, Vol. 67), by Dr. Fred Baker, lists 113 species and subspecies, of which 43 are new. In the same journal Harold Heath describes "The Anatomy of Two Brazilian Land Shells, *Anostoma depressum* and *Tomigerus clausus*."

HAROLD HEATH.

Voyage en Colombie (1911-1912). Par Félix Serret. vii and 331 pp. H. Dunod & E. Pinat, Paris, 1912. Fr. 3.50. 7½ x 5.

A French account of a tour through Colombia, made in 1911-12. It is a simple narrative of the traveler's experiences. Starting from Panama, he landed at Buenaventura, the most important Colombian port on the Pacific. From there he went by rail to Cali, and then by river-boats and mule-back journeyed across the country to Cartagena and Santa Marta, where he embarked for his native land. He combats at length the statement of Oviedo, that a certain infectious malady, which each nation is fond of foisting upon the other, came to Europe from America with the sailors of Columbus; and maintains that it dates back to the early Hebrew Kings. He also denies the statement of Oviedo, that the banana was imported into the Western Hemisphere, and contends that it is an indigenous plant. The "English biscuit," served with his coffee, and called "crackers," tastes to him like chips of wood. The book is a pleasant example of the French tourist's style of writing.

Peru: A Land of Contrasts. By Millicent Todd. viii and 314 pp. Ills., index. Little, Brown & Co., Boston, 1914. \$2. 8½ x 6.

An account of the geography, geology, ethnology, and religion of Peru by a woman and an artist, whose aim is to divine the true inwardness of the

Peruvian land and people. Within the landscape of desert perspective, she brings an interesting account of the rule and religion of the Incas. The climatology of the Andes, the habits of the vicuña, alpaca, and llama, among the fauna, the megalithic ruins of Tiahuanaco, and the peculiar geographical and climatic characteristics of Lake Titicaca, and its island of the same name, receive due mention. The geographical wonders of the upper Amazon river-basin, the luxuriant vegetation resulting, the natural irrigation of rain and river, the animal life, especially the tapir, the armadillo, the sloth, and the vampire bats, are the more important topics appealing to the artistic sense. The bibliography is a discriminating valuation of the sources from which the work has been derived.

AFRICA

Der Victoria-Njansa. Eine monographische Studie auf Grund der vorhandenen Literatur. Von Dr. Joachim Perthes. vi and 96 pp. Map. Justus Perthes, Gotha, 1914. Mk. 4. 11 x 7½.

The area of Victoria Nyanza is about 26,000 square miles, that of its drainage basin four times as much. It is very shallow, hardly more than 200 feet deep. It appears to be a hollow resulting from the warping of a peneplaned surface at the time of the fracturing that made the Great African Rift. The shores are very irregular, with a total length four times as great as the circumference of the circle of the same area. Five hundred islands lie along the shores. The surface of the lake is 3,700 feet above the sea and Perthes regards it as the main source of the Nile, admitting, however, that Abyssinia sends more water by the Blue Nile than comes from the lakes. The position just south of the equator, where the heat equator lies well to the north, puts the Victoria lake in the belt of the southern trade winds, which blow there all the year. The southeast winds may be said to be prevalent, but their greatest strength is in June and July, when the sun is furthest north. Although shallow, the lake has a sufficient water-mass to cause lake and shore breezes at all seasons all around the shores, but these are superimposed on the system of the trades. At their strongest the southeast trades raise a violent surf, making navigation on the lake dangerous and producing currents, westerly on the south shore and northerly on the west. As a result of the southeast winds, the climate of the northwest shore is oceanic, humid and rainy, with luxuriant vegetation; that of the southeast is continental, with strongly pronounced dry seasons, two each year. The rains of Nyanza are accompanied by terrific thunderstorms, which stand a little inland in the afternoon, when the wind is from the lake, and move out over the lake at night when the wind is reversed.

Such are the main facts. The first section of the book gives a history of the many errors in the maps of the lake which were finally removed by the survey made by Commander Whitehouse in 1901. Whitehouse's map is regarded as highly accurate. With Teutonic "laboriousness" Dr. Perthes bestows as many pages to errors as to truths, but an admirable view of present-day knowledge of the great African lake is presented. There is a good map, but the text would have been much helped by a few sketch maps and pictures.

MARK JEFFERSON.

Missionary Travels in Central Africa. By F. S. Arnot. xix and 159 pp. Maps, ills., index. Alfred Holness, London, 1914. 2s. 8½ x 6.

When Arnot was about four years old, his family removed to the town where Dr. David Livingstone's family resided. Here Arnot learned of Livingstone's work in Africa, and resolved that when he became a man, he would follow the great explorer's example. Accordingly, in 1881, Arnot left England for South Africa; thence to the Upper Zambezi. Then followed years of exploration and hardship. The five maps given in this book show the routes traversed by Arnot. He suffered sickness and narrowly escaped innumerable dangers from wild beasts and equally savage men, but nothing daunted his resolution to open up Central and South Africa to Christianity. Everywhere he went he looked for suitable sites for mission stations, and as he traveled he preached the Gospel and healed the sick. He made friends with the power-